

## AMENDMENTS TO ABSTRACT

A method for calibrating a propagation delay in a network trunk includes the step of ~~providing a counter in each of first and second network switches in a network switch system; each counter~~ calculating a time period  $T_i$  ~~from in a first network switch between~~ sending a marker in the first network switch ~~until and~~ receiving a trunk package acknowledgement marker from the second network switch, and a time period  $T_t$  ~~from in the second switch between~~ receiving the trunk package and the marker in the second network switch ~~until generating and transmitting an acknowledgement marker containing the trunk package back to the first switch, [[:]] commanding the second network switch to append appending~~ the time period  $T_t$  to the acknowledgement marker ~~prior to before~~ sending the acknowledgement marker ~~it~~ back to the first network switch[;]. ~~Reading out the~~ The time gap  $T_i$  ~~is read after the first network switch has received the acknowledgement marker[[:]] and calculating a time delay  $T_x$  by an equation  $T_x = (T_i - T_t)/2$  wherein the time delay  $T_x$  is caused by sending the trunk package on each channel between the first and the second network switches. Further, the~~ caused by sending the trunk package on each channel is calculated. The second network switch is operable to decode decodes the received trunk package ~~for calibrating and calibrates~~ the propagation delay based on the time delay  $T_x$  ~~in order~~ to determine a time gap between the packages in the same channel[[:]] ~~thereby obtaining a correct data stream from the trunk package. This reduces the possibility of require a software tool at upper layer to wait or discarding a sequence of data stream due to erroneous data stream.~~